

Dec. 20, 2018

I first met Dr. Will McRaney when he was planting a church in Colorado. I noticed that Will had a gift for connecting lost people to Jesus through his personal witness, through his understanding of those outside of the church, and through his ability to lead others to effectively share their faith. Years later we reconnected as Will began working with the Evangelism Team of the Florida Baptist Convention. During that season, I saw him develop and implement training for churches in order that evangelism might drive everything that they did as a church. So often churches have one piece or another piece, but have a hard time seeing how everything should be done with evangelistic intentionality. I saw hundreds of churches effectively reach lost people through Will's training and leadership.

Later I was honored to work on the Church Planting Team and Will was our Team Leader. In a very short amount of time Will was able to create a wholistic system for planters to receive assessment, training, coaching, and ongoing relationships with others who offered help and resources to planters. The training was concise yet thorough. It was encouraging to see hundreds of planters grow into the leaders that God was calling them to be. Isolation is a killer in the life of planters as well as others in ministry. Will was gifted to empower leaders to form networks of relationships so that God's called servants did not have to live and work in isolation. Healthy networks provided a safety net of relationships for these pastors. Will is uniquely wired to envision and create networks of believers accomplishing more together.

Will is uniquely gifted to equip church and marketplace leaders for the future. Will has been entrusted with wisdom and he understands the times we are working in. Time and again I have seen leaders encouraged through his insights into what God is up to today and how God is asking us to labor for tomorrow. Will's character is shaped by Jesus principles that are two-thousand years old, yet require leadership focused on what people will need in a very unique future. Will is wired to equip people who have taken an honest look at what the scorecard indicates. Many leaders today are frustrated with the poor results of some of our favorite old methods. Will is gifted as a researcher and a teacher to help people see again with fresh eyes the objectives that Jesus entrusted to His Church.

Will's strengths include: The ability to do honest research regarding Kingdom effectiveness. The ability to recognize trends in our culture today and create clear alternatives. An understanding of how Jesus trained people through interaction and engagement. Finally, Will knows the power of synergy when people work together.

Robert Beckman